

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions on "Elections, and manner of payment"?

Mr. McILRAITH: In connection with those contributors, now under the existing legislation, he has an opportunity to elect. But when he elects and fails to take all the pensionable service which he could have elected to take the benefit of, can he come under this new bill and elect again and take the benefits of that additional service?

The WITNESS: Yes. They may extend their elections. But under the new rules it means that they must pay for it at their present salaries.

The CHAIRMAN: Must they have a medical?

The WITNESS: Yes.

*By Mr. McCusker:*

Q. I think we should get that clear. I understand that Dr. Ratz and his staff are merely to examine civil servants when they are taken on for employment; and that if a civil servant is ill on duty, he can go there and is examined, and he will be sent to his physician. He does not receive medical treatment there from Dr. Ratz and his staff. I am talking about what is occurring at the present time. He goes to Dr. Ratz if he is sick. In some departments they will say: "Go and see Dr. Ratz." And if he goes there, and sees Dr. Ratz, they will refer him to his family physician, whoever that family physician is.

The CHAIRMAN: For treatment?

Mr. McCUSKER: For treatment, yes. And when that family physician says that the man is fit to go back on duty, he is again examined before he goes back on duty. We are not providing medical care for civil servants. I would like to have that made clear.

Mr. RICHARD: What about Dr. Douglas? Did he not do that work?

Mr. McCUSKER: There is no one especially set up to do this work.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions under "Elections and manner of payments", are there any questions under "Benefits"?

*By Mr. Fraser:*

Q. Under "Benefits", why was 10 years picked for a man to take as his average salary? You have extended it over 10 years. Most of those civil servants have only had a raise in salary during the last 7 years. The Mounted Police are on a 1-year basis.—A. The 10 years goes back to 1924. Prior to that time it was on the last five years. But in 1924 it was made the last 10 years. The only change in this bill is to provide that it shall be the best consecutive 10 years rather than the last 10 years. In addition to salary increases there are the usual statutory increases year by year, and the average civil servant gets promotion into the higher classes as he develops in experience and skill.

*By Mr. Brooks:*

Q. Has there been any tendency for these men, under the 10-year period, to stay in the civil service longer in order to get the benefit of the higher salaries?

The CHAIRMAN: Would you mind asking the question as to whether they do get the benefits, and then ask if there is a tendency?

The WITNESS: Of course pensions normally become payable only upon retirement. That means normally, 65, although there is provision for retirement at the age of 60 at the option of either party.